

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkee** Ref: **72**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **308**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **08/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	48	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	44	45
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	42	42
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	35	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>308</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Kilkee is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your entry form but alas you are providing far too much information, with much of it of little or no relevance to the contest. When visiting your town the adjudicator wants to know, in as succinct a manner as possible, what work was completed since our last visit. We want to know exactly what was done, where and by whom. By all means include photos but these should be clearly labelled and in support of the project. Projects should be numbered and the code used on your map so that the adjudicator can find them. While we are interested in your plans these should be described in a three-year plan, which – astonishingly for a town at this level of the contest – you seem to be lacking. Clarity is key in order to avoid confusion. You have a great pedigree in the Tidy Towns contest and enjoy support network that is the envy of many. You want therefore to present your best side and a clearly presented application form is therefore vital. Such a task is likely to mean less work for yourself as well as the adjudicator!

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The abundance of text on the map made it quite difficult to identify the locations of projects. No doubt this could be addressed with a clearer numbering system for next year. Well done for addressing derelict sites and engaging with Clare county council is definitely the way forward here. Your guided historic walks sound like fun and interesting outings, it's definitely on the list for when we return with more time on our hands. St James's church on the Carrigaholt road is an important heritage building. It was good to see that the grass was cut but it nevertheless feels like a forgotten corner. Blacking out windows or covering them with advertising creates an alienating streetscape, e.g. at Mace and Nolan's deli. They should be encouraged to create open window displays the draw the eye in. The Che Guevara mural beside Williams Pharmacy is wonderful – the neighbouring building is in a very bad way however. The parochial house holiday cottage has superb presentation, well done here! The old railway station is surprisingly well preserved if unadorned and forgotten. A bit of a clean to this facade, perhaps some flowers on the windowsills and a heritage panel would do wonders. Fitzpatrick's Ocean View looks fresh and inviting. The Stella Maris meanwhile is up to its usual standard and retains all of its Victorian charm. Improvements to the sea wall were admired and have preserved this important heritage feature of the town.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Loop Head area is particularly treeless and the climate is no doubt one of the factors for this. Some trees are tolerant of the wind and salt spray however so it is a question of finding out which ones. Sycamore for instance has been noted elsewhere or Scots pine grows well along the south coast. Do let us know which of the trees are surviving and this will guide any future planting decisions. There is no doubt that more trees would benefit the town's landscape. The beach and nearby green areas were very well presented on adjudication day and the blue/white

colour scheme really is very effective. The Percy French garden was admired for its design and profuse display of flowers. The railway theme was noted and seating was inviting. However the whole display was let down by weeds and especially the heap of black refuse sacks which had been dumped. A half dead whitebeam tree needs to be removed.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

There is no doubt that Kilkee is blessed with a rich marine heritage. The adjudicator is looking at how this is celebrated. For instance are there any events to surround World Oceans Day in June? Well done to the students of Realt na Mara - what did they find? Perhaps there are still pollack in the pollack holes but fishing has changed dramatically over the past decades, affecting much of the ocean and the people who once depended on it for a living. These days people rely on the sea in more indirect ways but it is nevertheless essential for our well-being while climate change is affecting it in uncertain ways. Consequently there is lots to explore and ample opportunity for people to get involved. Elsewhere in your application form there is a mention of the Maritime Festival – does this have an element of natural history or environmental awareness? The Kilkee nature trail panel was in a spot that surely no one ever visits.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Well done for attending the meeting earlier this year. Do provide the details as to the ideas for improvement and how you think they can be implemented. The charity shop is a wonderful resource which no doubt encourages people to avoid throwing items away. Dog fouling is not an issue that is assessed under this category while recycling is considered more or less standard. The 'Greening your Festival' is excellent but do be specific as to how it was applied to the Maritime Festival. Are there any of the local schools involved in the green flag program? Their achievement should be listed here so that we can give them full credit. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Tackling dog fouling is a very important task and you are commended for addressing it. Well done to the children on their beach clean (this was not mentioned in the application form but the photo was admired in the folder). At the beach a small number of litter items were noted at the public toilets (West End). A pair of empty poles were also noted nearby and they should be removed if possible. Watch out elsewhere for cable ties and fly posters for events and they should be removed as required. Are there any moves towards removing overhead wires? This should be an action in your long-term plan as it would remove a major source of clutter in Kilkee. Litter was more or less seen everywhere during adjudication, a rainy day that did not see too much activity on the beach. While never in large quantities it seems to reach into every corner, even the playground and the Astroturf pitch. For a busy tourist town and particularly at this level of the contest a higher standard is expected.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

It is wonderful that you have such good relations with your residential areas and this is essential for a town of this size. Better still that you help out as required. Your community/social presentation awards are excellent – we looked again the through your photos but could find none of the various winners. There is a fascinating variety in styles and vintages in residential areas of Kilkee. At Geraldine Place older terraces led to a small chapel (it had no name) but was redolent of Victorian times. At Pairc Mhuire a really beautiful display of colour is on show. The grotto is delightful in its presentation – note how Sycamore and Ash trees seem to be growing well here.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The approach to Kilkee from Doonbeg is dramatic, providing views out to the Atlantic Ocean. The Wild Atlantic Way no doubt is attracting more visitors to the area and signage is most important. Well done to those who have made efforts this year in enhancing boundary walls. The large coach parking area is very clean with clear local information signage and functional toilets.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Kilkee again and admire its attractions and fresh sea air. Best of luck and we look forward to returning 2017.